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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is the question connected with the answer given ? "

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have framed any scheme determining the number of members for each taluk board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" We have not yet definitely decided those things."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that in March contracts for roads and tolls will be given and, if so, whether they will be pleased to issue orders prohibiting such things till the bifurcation is effected ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am afraid these things have to take their natural course and cannot be stopped."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the hon. Minister has been corresponding with the Collector with regard to the names of persons to be nominated ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state why those matters were delayed so long ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am sure the hon. Gentleman is aware that I have been in charge of the department only for the last two months. That being the case, I think he will agree with me that I have taken the matter in hand in an expeditious manner."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether any names have been suggested by the Government ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question does not arise."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the President will be nominated or elected ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That question does not arise."

Nominations to taluk boards in West Godavari district.

* 126 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the administration of four out of five taluk boards in West Godavari district was being carried on by only four nominated members in each board for the last one year and, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) why the Government have omitted the names of most of the elected members in nominating members for the taluk boards which are newly constituted as per Notification No. 1428 (published on page 520 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st December 1926) ;

(c) why the Government have nominated as members of the said taluk boards persons who were defeated in the elections in preference to the sitting elected members ;

(d) why the Government have nominated for the said boards two or more persons from the same village overlooking the claims of several circles without any representation ;

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(*e*) whether the Government intend to give the right of election of presidents to the newly constituted taluk boards; and

(*f*) whether it is proposed that the new taluk boards should function for a whole year or for any lesser period?

A.—(*a*) Yes, from the 10th March 1926 in the case of the Ellore and Yernagudem Taluk Boards and the 31st March 1926 in the case of the Tanuku and Narasapur Taluk Boards. The Tanuku Taluk Board had however one elected member also. The question of reconstituting the taluk boards with all the members nominated under section 240 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, had been under consideration since May 1926 and it was not considered necessary to hold elections for the taluk boards. Orders were issued in December last giving effect to the reconstitution from 1st February 1927.

(*b*) As far as possible the Government have appointed to the new taluk boards the elected members of the old taluk boards. Ten of these could not be appointed for one or more of the following reasons:—

(i) The total number of members for the old five boards was 70 while the strength of the new boards is 60 at the rate of 12 members for each board.

(ii) In consequence of the transfer of villages from one board to another some of the elected members could not be appointed to the boards in whose jurisdiction they resided, as there were other elected members in the same area to be provided for.

(iii) Proper representation had to be given to the backward classes and minority communities on the new taluk boards.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government had no information on the specific points mentioned in these clauses. They had no reason to refuse to accept the nominations submitted to them.

(*e*) The reconstituted boards have been permitted to elect their presidents.

(*f*) The members of the new boards have been appointed for one year.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), that elections were held up from May 1926 till 1st February 1927, may I know what was the reason for depriving the people of the right of election, pending consideration by Government of the proposal for reconstituting the taluk boards? When the taluk boards are reconstituted, there may be fresh boards before reconstitution took place it was given effect to, why should elections be held up?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I am sure the hon. Member is aware that I am not responsible for that."

(Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"But the Government is responsible".)

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Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" Do not the records show any reason for holding up the elections ? "

The hon. Dr P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I think the Government acted on the advice of the President, District Board."

11-45 a.m. Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, with reference to the answer to clauses (c) and (d), may I know whether the Government merely acted as a registering office and accepted the nominations sent up to them, without making any enquiries and calling for information on such relevant points mentioned in clauses (c) and (d) of the question ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" If Government think that any enquiries are necessary, they would make enquiries; evidently in this case, they thought that no such enquiries were necessary."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know who submitted these nominations ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The President, District Board."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I give this information to my hon. Friend that in nominating members to the new taluk boards, several elected members of the old taluk boards were excluded while defeated candidates were nominated, and ask him whether such a procedure is justified in his opinion? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is asking for my opinion."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am not asking for his opinion, Sir. Though nominations of defeated candidates were sent up and confirmed by his predecessor, may I ask him if he will turn a new leaf in the chapter and ask for information with regard to the nominations, whether they are of defeated candidates and so on ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" My hon. Friend knows enough about me to know that I shall do so."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" But when these nominations were sent up, why did not my hon. Friend ask for the necessary information ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The matter had gone to such a head at that time that I could not do anything."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Is there any policy or principle involved in the nomination of defeated candidates ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Lack of principle ! "

Roads connecting Malabar with South Kanara.

* 127 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the answer to my question No. 2271, dated 17th July 1926, and to state—

(a) what roads there are connecting Malabar with South Kanara ; and

(b) if there are none, whether Government have decided to make the required roads for connecting the two districts?